

John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, January 24, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

VICE-PRESIDENT CALHOUN TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 24, 1827.

My dear Sir, I duly received your letter of the 18th July last, and, which I would have answered long since, had any event worthy of being communicated occurred. I cannot, however, to permit the opportunity, which the return of Genl. Coffee offers to pass without availing myself of it to renew our correspondence. He will make known the state of things here fully and accurately, which will supercede the necessity of details on my part; but I cannot but congratulate you and the country at the certain termination of the present corrup[t] state on the 4th March 1829. I never did doubt its overthrow from the begining, because I firmly relied on the good sense and virtue of the people. This great foundation of our whole system has at all times, and under all circumstances been the basis of my hopes and actions. It has never yet failed me, and, I feel assured, will not in this instance. Every indication is in our favour, or rather I should say in favor of the country's cause. The whole South is safe, with a large majority of the midle states, and even in New England strong symptoms of discontent and division now appear, which must daily increase. If events should continue to march on in the present direction, and I can see nothing to arrest them, the triumph of principle will be one of the most signal, that ever was achieved; and you will have the proud satisfaction of having restored in your name the great principles of popular rights, which have been trampled down by the coalition.

As to myself, it is my pride, that I have been the object of unceasing attack by the corrupt occupants of power. From the begining I saw the real character of the coalition, and the

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means, which it would adopt to perpetuate its power, among which was, if possible, my destruction; but I determined to have my danger on the side of liberty, and to sustain the whole weight of their attack, let the consequence be what it might to me. Finding all other attempts fail, a conspiracy the most base, and with a man guilty of forgery, swindling and perjury, was artfully got up to blast my private reputation.¹ I saw the assassins aim, and immediately appealed to the House, where alone, I could defend myself. A packed Committee was appointed, which has been sitting for three weeks, collecting irrelevant testimony, and hearing the testimony of a perjured wretch in order to bury the whole in an incongruous mass of suspicion, for the purpose of breaking the force of public indignation. But it shall not avail them. Having through my whole life been governed by disinterested and patriotick feelings, I shall not permit my character to be stabled by conspirators, who would immolate me and my name, simply because I will not bow to power.

¹ Referring to the affair of the Mix contract; *Corr. of Calhoun*, pp. 239, 791.

Make my best respects to Mrs. Jackson, and believe me to be with sentiment of great respect and esteem Yours etc